

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the communication filed 04/19/2010 and phone interview on June 29, 2010. Claims 1-8, 10-16, 18-19 and 21-24 are pending and have been considered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Aaron Deditch (Reg. No. 33,865) on June 29, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended). A microprocessor system comprising:
 - a plurality of modules including a microprocessor and at least one storage module for storing code and data for the microprocessor, at least one of the modules storing a serial number of the at least one module in a non-exchangeable manner;
 - an arrangement for storing a code number, the code number being obtained as a function of the serial number by using an encryption method, and for storing information required to calculate the serial number from the code number,
 - wherein the microprocessor is adapted to calculate a serial number from the code number on the basis of the information, to compare the calculated serial number to the stored serial number, and to execute or not execute at least part of the code as a function of a result of the comparison; ~~and~~ ;
 - wherein the encryption method is asymmetrical, the code number is calculated from the serial number with the aid of a secret key, and the information includes a public

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key as well as a program code for calculating the serial number from the code number;
and

wherein at least two of the modules are each identified by a serial number, and the code number is obtained by encrypting a linking of the serial numbers of the at least two of the modules.

2. (Currently Cancelled).

3. (Currently amended) The microprocessor system according to claim 1, wherein one of the at least one module identified by the serial number is a storage module.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting an exchange of a module, identified by a serial number, in a microprocessor system, the method comprising:

storing, in the microprocessor system, a code number, which is obtained from the serial number by using an encryption method, and storing information required for calculating the serial number from the code number;

reading the code number and calculating an unencrypted serial number as a function of the code number with the aid of the information;

comparing the decrypted serial number thus obtained with the serial number of the module; and

detecting an exchange of the module if the serial number of the module does not match the decrypted serial number,

wherein an asymmetric encryption method is used and a public key of the encryption method is included in the information required to calculate the serial number from the code number, and

wherein the method is used for a plurality of modules of the microprocessor system, and the code number is obtained by encrypting a linking of the serial numbers of the plurality of modules.

11. (Currently Cancelled).
20. (Currently Cancelled).
23. (Currently amended). A microprocessor system, comprising:
a plurality of modules including a microprocessor and at least one storage module for storing code and data for the microprocessor, at least one of the modules storing a serial number of the at least one module in a non-exchangeable manner;
an arrangement for storing a code number, the code number being obtained as a function of the serial number by using an encryption method, and for storing information required to calculate the serial number from the code number,
wherein the microprocessor is adapted to calculate a serial number from the code number on the basis of the information, to compare the calculated serial number to the stored serial number, and to execute or not execute at least part of the code as a function of a result of the comparison, ~~and~~
wherein the information required to calculate the serial number from the code number is stored in a different storage module than the code number, the different storage module being connected to the microprocessor in a non-separable manner;
wherein the encryption method is asymmetrical, the code number is calculated from the serial number with the aid of a secret key, and the information includes a public key as well as a program code for calculating the serial number from the code number, and
wherein at least two of the modules are each identified by a serial number, and the code number is obtained by encrypting a linking of the serial numbers of the at least two of the modules.

Allowance

3. Claims 2, 9, 11, 17 and 20 have been cancelled.

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4. Claims 1, 3, 10 and 23 have been amended.
5. Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12-16, 18-19 and 21-24 are allowed.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance

6. Brookner (US 7,308,718) is directed to a processor-controlled system having communications capabilities which is delivered to a user in its generic configuration, customization of the system is realized in accordance with the invention by downloading thereto selected information objects, e.g., software components and/or data, from a server. To avoid unauthorized downloading of the selected information objects, certain information in a request for the objects by the system to the server is encrypted and/or cryptographically signed. Such information may be, e.g., a serial number identifying the system. If the server succeeds in decrypting the encrypted information and/or authenticating the digital signature, and thereby verifies the identity and legitimacy of the system, the server downloads the selected information objects to realize the customization.

7. Ansell et al (US 6,792,113) is directed to convert Content such as computer software, data representing audiovisual works, and electronic documents from a machine-bound state to user-bound state without modification to the content data itself.

8. The above prior art reference of record do not teach or render obvious the limitations as recited in independent claims 1, 10 and 23 as amended. *The combined references fail to teach Claim 1 recites, in relevant parts, "a plurality of modules including a microprocessor and at least one storage module for storing code and data for the microprocessor, at least one of the*

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modules storing a serial number of the at least one module in a non-exchangeable manner; an arrangement for storing a code number, the code number being obtained as a function of the serial number by using an encryption method, and for storing information required to calculate the serial number from the code number, wherein the encryption method is asymmetrical, the code number is calculated from the serial number with the aid of a secret key, and the information includes a public key as well as a program code for calculating the serial number from the code number wherein at least two of the modules are each identified by a serial number and the code number is obtained by encrypting a linking of the serial numbers of the at least two of the modules." Claim 10 and 23 recite substantially similar features as the above-recited features of claim 1

The combination of Brookner and Ensell et al does not render Applicants' claims obvious because the combination does not teach or suggest these features.

9. Dependent claims are allowed as they depend from allowable independent claims.

10. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FATOUMATA TRAORE whose telephone number is (571)270-1685. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday (every other Friday off) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser Moazzami can be reached on 571 272 4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Wednesday, June 30, 2010.

/Fatoumata Traore/

Examiner, Art Unit 2436

/Nasser Moazzami/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2436